

9 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Research and Reports  
THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research, ORR  
FROM: Chief, Materials Division, ORR  
SUBJECT: Proposed External Research Project on "The Agriculture of Communist China"  
REFERENCE: ORR Regulation R50-15, paragraph 1b

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the proposed external research project and to provide as much detail as possible relative to justification, suggested contractor, proposed monitor, estimated cost, security classification, etc., in accordance with the referenced regulation.

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2. The proposed external research project involves a contract (to be negotiated) [REDACTED], for the production of an economic and statistical research report which will develop a land utilization pattern for the major crops of Communist China. The funds required will total [REDACTED] to be expended during Fiscal Years 1959 and 1960.  
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3. Objective: The objective of the proposed project is to determine by regions (provinces) the distribution of crop acreage, by specified crops as follows:

- A. Basic cultivated area by specified crops,
- B. Sown (planted) area by specified crops,
- C. Area of multiple cropping by specified crops,
- D. Area of dry-land farming by specified crops,
- E. Irrigated area by specified crops.

Item C will be given particular attention.

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25X1A9a 4. Origin and Policy Guidance: The proposed project originated at Headquarters following an assessment of the research required to provide proper support for NIE 13-59, "Communist China Through 1963", and similar NIE's, by [REDACTED]

5. Situation: The devices available to ORR for evaluating official Communist Chinese claims of agricultural production and planned exploitation, or for making its own estimates, are severely limited by a lack of basic data. In particular we suffer from a lack of information on land use patterns. With the proposed research as background, and within the framework of the information that it will provide, it will be possible to test official Communist Chinese production claims and planned increases against:

- A. The total land available for use,
- B. Knowledge of historical yields,
- X C. Information on weather influences on the current year's yield,
- D. Information bearing on expanded land use,
- E. Improvement in land quality,
- X F. Known weather factors influencing yield.

25X1A5a1 25X1A5a1 6. Proposal: It is proposed that [REDACTED]

25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] undertake the exploitation and analysis of unclassified sources to develop a land utilization pattern for the major crops of Communist China. The first stage of the research will be primarily of an exploratory nature, designed to determine the magnitude of the regional information available on the points listed in paragraph 3 above.

25X1A5a1 7. Operational Outline: See budget, paragraph 11. The duration of the project will be 12 months from the date of a contract, with the possibility of interim progress reports. [REDACTED]

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8. Security: Agency interest in this proposed project will be classified **SECRET**. The contract for the proposed project will be handled on a classified contract basis. The research work itself will be unclassified and will become classified only when incorporated into the work being done inside CIA.

9. Coordination: The proposed project does not duplicate existing research and will support National Intelligence Estimates such as NIE 13-59. In addition, the project will provide the basic information against which a realistic appraisal of official Communist Chinese claims can be made.

10. Control: The project will be monitored by Deputy Chief, Food and Agriculture Branch, D/M/RR. Interim reports, in addition to the final report, may be prepared as part of the proposed project.

11. Budget data: Total over-all CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1959: (to be available until completion of the proposed project -- approximately April 1960). The budget for this project is as follows:

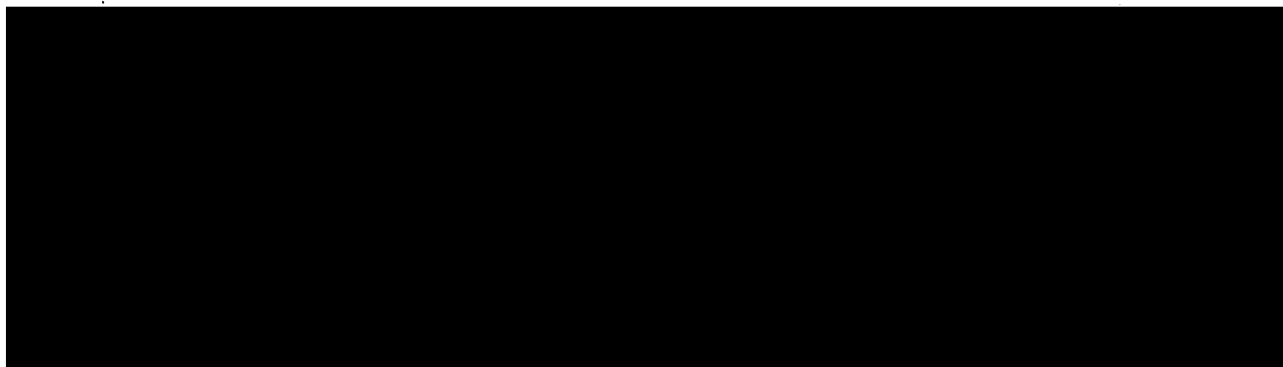
Direct salaries and wages	
Consultant fees	
Overhead (12% of above compensation)	
Travel and transportation	
Research Materials, microfilming	
Rent (375 sq. ft. @ 25¢/sq. ft./mo.)	
Equipment	
Supplies and miscellaneous	
Contingencies	
Total	

12. Support Data: Communications concerning the proposed project will be handled through the Office of Operations, Contact Division.

13. General Considerations: No commitments have been made to date. ORR presently employs 3 full-time analysts exploiting the classified data on Communist Chinese agriculture but does not have the manpower capability to exploit the valuable unclassified material on the subject. The proposed project, can be undertaken on a timely basis as external research. The resultant reports

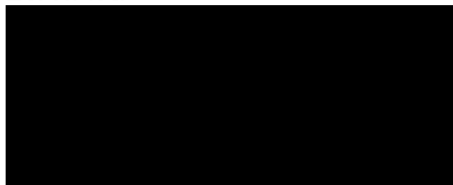
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will be invaluable to the production of classified finished intelligence by ORR analysts.



14. The project will be evaluated on a continuing basis by [redacted], ORR and will terminate upon production of the final report.

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ORR:D/M: [redacted] :vaw/3011 (9 Dec 58)

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